

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

(Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121, below is a clean copy of the claims, as amended. In a separate attachment submitted concurrently herewith is a marked up copy of the amended claims.)

Please cancel claims 1-9, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

~~10.~~ (New) A device for coupling a tooth having lateral wings to an excavator machine having a bucket with an active edge, said coupling device comprising:

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a tooth-carrying portion configured for coupling the tooth to the active edge of the bucket;

a projecting portion extending from said tooth-carrying portion and tapering towards an opposite free end substantially complementary in shape to seat the tooth, said tooth-carrying portion including a front edge that forms two recesses at an interface with said projecting portion (for receiving and retaining a rear edge of a mouth of the tooth), the front edge forming an acute angle relative to an axis perpendicular to a longitudinal median plane of the tooth, said projecting

portion having a plurality of successive areas disposed between the tooth and said tooth-carrying element, said plural areas comprising:

a first area of stepped guiding profiles that open on lateral outer surfaces of said tooth-carrying portion to form longitudinally disposed grooves configured to receive complementary shaped profiles of the lateral wings of the tooth;

9 a second guiding area, following said first area, including a plurality of conically shaped revolution surfaces on opposite sides of an axial plane;

an end terminal area having a lateral cross section of irregular hexagonal shape;

an internal projecting block receivable in said grooves; and

a pin for engaging said internal projecting block in said grooves to retain said tooth on said tooth-carrying portion;

(said tooth-carrying portion having at least one hole defined longitudinally therein for receiving the pin, the at least one hole being interrupted by the stepped guiding profiles of the first area and offset relative to the recesses of the front edge of said tooth-carrying portion.)

~~2~~ ~~11~~. (New) The coupling device in accordance with claim ~~10~~, wherein the recesses extend along a widest portion of a mating area formed by the conically shaped revolution surfaces.

~~3~~ ~~12~~. (New) The coupling device in accordance with claim ~~11~~, wherein the recesses have an upper portion and a lower portion limited at its ends by the stepped guiding profiles.

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~~4~~ ~~13~~. (New) The coupling device in accordance with claim ~~12~~, wherein the recesses are disposed at a widest part of the conically shaped revolution surfaces that are limited on its lateral sides by the stepped guiding profiles, the conically shaped revolution surfaces merging uninterrupted into the end terminal area.

~~5~~ ~~14~~. (New) The coupling device in accordance with claim ~~13~~, wherein the recesses form a first stop for receiving a rear edge of a mouth of the tooth and a second stop is formed by terminating walls of the stepped guiding profile that receive terminating ends of the lateral wings.

~~6~~ ~~15~~. (New) The coupling device in accordance with claim ~~14~~, wherein said pin is shorter in length than the at least one hole for receiving said pin so as to

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accommodate at least one of upper and lower removable covers for closing the at least one hole.

Q 16. (New) The coupling device in accordance with claim ~~15~~<sup>6</sup>, wherein said covers are partially seated in upper and lower recesses of the at least one hole.

17. (New) The coupling device in accordance with claim ~~16~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the end terminating area has an irregular hexagon lateral cross sectional shape.

18. (New) The coupling device in accordance with claim ~~17~~<sup>9</sup>, wherein the pin is completely enclosed within the tooth-carrying element and projecting portion so as to be protected against wear and external impact. --

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

*Page 15, replace both paragraphs with the following new paragraph:*

Q A device for coupling a tooth and tooth-carrier. The device including three successive areas from the median portion of a coupling part to its free end. A first area comprises stepped straight guides that open on lateral outer surfaces of the coupling part. Following the first area is a second guiding area comprising